

development, and we stand ready with our national community to assist you in generating support for its expeditious passage in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. State Department may object to some of the language in this Resolution, since over time the State Department has ramped up its requirements related to Croatia's membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This Department's requirement for support of Croatia's entry into NATO has actually morphed from 'complete cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, ICTY, in the pursuit of the remaining indictee' to 'the capture and delivery of the remaining indictee to The Hague'. The State Department holds to this position in spite of the fact that the ICTY Chief Prosecutor claims that the remaining indictee is hiding in an Italian monastery protected by the Vatican. The ICTY Chief Prosecutor has further asserted that Croatia is now completely cooperating with the ICTY. Furthermore, the new government of Prime Minister Ivo Sanader has affirmed the Government of Croatia's commitment to cooperate fully and continue to take all necessary steps to locate and transfer the remaining indictee to the ICTY. After complying with 626 demands of the ICTY, the people of the free and democratic Republic of Croatia deserve better treatment from the United States and they have certainly earned our strong support expressed so well in this Resolution.

We agree with the view that stability in South Central Europe is of a very high priority, and that Croatia has become a valuable, constructive partner in this delicate region. Given the potential for future regional conflicts, NATO should want to take advantage of the greater contribution that Croatia would make toward peace and stability as a full member of NATO. As you know, Montenegro may wish to break from Serbia in the future, and Kosovo is considering its own independence. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina has yet to be reconstituted into a nation-state that can equitably govern its three ethnic constituencies. And, unfortunately, The Serbian Radical Party—using Republika Srpska as a foothold—openly promulgates activities oriented towards the creation of a Greater Serbia, which may also include current parts of Croatia. These potentially explosive situations require the stability that a NATO presence in Croatia will provide.

I am taking the liberty of providing a copy of this letter to your Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Representative Robert Wexler, and to the Co-Chairs of the Croatian Caucus, Representatives George Radanovich and Peter Visclosky, who we believe will be helpful on this matter. If I may provide anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or our NFCA Government Relations Director, Mr. Joseph Foley. Thank you again for your important continued support for Croatia's NATO membership.

Sincerely,

EDWARD A. ANDRUS,
President.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 13, 2005

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, CORRECTION: I intended to vote against the U.S.-Bahrain Free Trade Agreement and attempted to do so. Upon inquiring with the clerk why my

vote was recorded as a "yes" instead of a "no", the clerk checked the electronic record and discovered that I had pressed the "no" button several times on the preceding vote. At no time did I intend to cast a "yes" vote on the agreement. To date, I have voted against every trade agreement that has come up while I have been in Congress, including the agreement with Bahrain.

TEXAS NATIONAL GUARD— RETURNING FREEDOM FIGHTERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a National Guard unit is coming back home to Texas. On Saturday, December 17, 2005, the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery will be welcomed back home to the Beaumont Armory, in Beaumont, Texas after bravely serving the past year in Iraq. In August 2004 the Texas Army National Guard deployed the 56th Brigade Combat Team of the 36th Infantry Division, to go to Iraq. They trained for four months in Ft. Hood, and got to Iraq in December of 2004.

The 133rd Field Artillery has a long-standing history. This was the same famous Texas Army National Guard Division that landed on the beaches of Anzio, Italy during WWII, liberated Rome and freed hostages in Dachau, Germany.

They continued this long-standing tradition in Iraq where they conducted offensive operations, deny and destroy operations, combat logistic patrols and civil military affairs operations. They built schools, hospitals, and won the hearts of the Iraqis they met along the way.

In January, I had the privilege of going to Iraq to witness the first elections. I met with our military and saw firsthand their accomplishments in their fight for Iraqi freedom.

Mr. Speaker, freedom has a price. Our troops are paying that sacrificial price for the Iraqi people and world freedom. Unfortunately, the 133rd lost 6 members during their fight for freedom and I would like to extend my prayers and our condolences to their family and friends. They were making a difference in the world when they gave their life. Their bravery, dedication and patriotism will never be forgotten.

President John Kennedy once said, "The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." We have chosen the right path, the hard path, the freedom path. We will persevere with the freedom loving people of Iraq until the journey down this path is successfully completed.

The 133rd operated in the Sunni Triangle, Tikrit, Tillal, on the Jordanian Border and in Baghdad and it is my pleasure to welcome them back to Beaumont, Texas today. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the 133rd and all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces. They have honored us with their commitment to Texas and the Nation, and the citizens of America and Iraq owe them a debt of gratitude. They are America's best. They are the sons and daughters of liberty, they are freedom fighters. They make us proud.

I join the citizens of Texas's 2nd Congressional District in paying the utmost respect to the 1st Battalion 133rd Field Artillery. Through their service, Iraq is a free democracy, and America remains the land of the free and the home of the brave. That's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING SCOTT TUCKER, THE SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT MANAGER OF THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, WHO IS RETIRING AFTER 13 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Scott Tucker, District Manager of the San Francisco District of the U.S. Postal Service. Mr. Tucker has served the San Francisco/Bay Area with distinction for thirteen years. On January 1, 2006, Mr. Tucker will retire from his post as District Manager.

Under Mr. Tucker's supervision, the San Francisco postal district has been recognized continually as having one of the best on-time mail services of any metropolitan area in the nation. When one considers that Mr. Tucker oversees a workforce of 10,400 employees who are responsible for delivery of nearly 10 million pieces of mail daily, to 3 million customers in San Francisco, the Peninsula and throughout Northwest California from Sunnyvale to the Oregon border—the success of his district has been no simple feat.

Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker began his postal career in 1968 as a letter carrier in Hanford, California. During his career with the Postal Service, he has held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, ascending to his current post in 1992. Throughout his career, Scott Tucker has been recognized by a multitude of community organizations for his outstanding service.

As lead executive for the San Francisco postal district, Mr. Tucker worked aggressively to heighten awareness of the multicultural groups within the District. Establishing diversity leadership advisory councils including a Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Islander Council and Hispanic Council, Scott Tucker was named the recipient of a diversity leadership achievement award presented by the Bay Area Federal Executive Board, for these efforts.

However, Mr. Speaker, Scott Tucker's accolades do not end here. Additionally, he was recognized by the Federal Asian Pacific American Council for promoting Diversity/Equal Employment Opportunity in the workforce. He also earned the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Chinese American Voters Education Committee for his community service.

Mr. Tucker's fine work reached overseas to military service personnel stationed abroad earning him honors by the Joint Military Postal Activity-Pacific. The California National Guard also recognized Mr. Tucker for his support of our troops in Iraq, some of whom are postal employees with reserve status that were called to duty.

Mr. Speaker, under Mr. Tucker's leadership, the San Francisco District received the "Order

of Yellow Jersey" for nine consecutive quarters, a prestigious award that recognizes a Postal district for excellence in customer satisfaction and commitment to professionalism.

Last but not least, in the culmination of his dedication in service to the people of the San Francisco Postal District, Mr. Tucker was the recipient of the Postmaster General Award, one of the top awards given to postal executives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in this great opportunity to recognize one of our finest public servants, Mr. Scott Tucker. Please join me in wishing Scott Tucker a happy and fulfilling retirement.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALCOA
HIGH SCHOOL'S TORNADO FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, on December 2nd of this year, the Alcoa High School Tornado football team finished its season as the 2005 Class 2A Tennessee state champions after defeating Goodpasture High School of Nashville, 55-13, at this year's championship game in Murfreesboro, TN. This is Alcoa's second straight state championship and the seventh state title in Alcoa High School's history.

This victory capped off an outstanding season for Head Coach John Reid's Tornados as they amassed a record of 14-1. They did so behind the leadership of only nine seniors and a dominant offensive attack led by outstanding play of Quarterback Joei Fiegler, Brandon Warren, recipient of the Mr. Football award as the state's finest player, and Dustin Lindsay, also a finalist for the Mr. Football award and a future University of Tennessee Volunteer.

The Tornado offense lit up scoreboards this season as they scored 40 or more points a remarkable ten times this season, had an amazing five game stretch in which they scored 68, 52, 55, 69 and 91 points respectively and became the first team in Tennessee High School football history to average more than 50 points a game throughout the playoffs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the readers of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and my fellow colleagues to join me in congratulating Head Coach John Reid and the Alcoa High School Tornado football team for their outstanding victory. I also include the following news article printed in the Maryville Daily Times. The team's leadership, strength, and determination should be recognized by all, and their sportsmanship and dedication are at a level that should be followed by every high school team in this Country.

[From the Maryville Daily Times: Dec. 3, 2005]

SHIVERDECKER, HICKS NAMED MVPs

(By Kelly Franklin)

Shooting fish in a barrel would be similar to the job faced by TSSAA officials in choosing Most Valuable Players after Alcoa's state championship victory over Goodpasture on Friday night.

For the record, the offensive hardware was won by Chris Shiverdecker and Bart Hicks took the defensive trophy. Both were well deserved.

Shiverdecker finished with three touchdowns including a back-breaking, 86-yard kickoff return, and ran for 126 yards on 13 carries.

Hicks led the stiff Alcoa defense with nine tackles, including five solo stops. Using a new 5-2 formation with Hicks roaming from sideline to sideline, the defenders didn't allow Goodpasture to crack the end zone until Alcoa was already up 34-0 late in the third period.

But there was no shortage of other candidates.

As Claude Rains said in the classic movie Casablanca, "Round up the usual suspects."

Start with Dustin Lindsey, just as the Tornados did. Perhaps feeling snubbed by missing out on the Mr. Football award, the future Volunteer scored Alcoa's first two touchdowns and added another on a 47-yard catch-and-run to give his team a 34-0 halftime lead.

He also added 55 rushing yards, contained the Goodpasture run game from his defensive end-linebacker position, and added a fumble recovery for extra measure.

Then consider how often a quarterback is going to tie a state championship record for touchdown tosses and not be chosen.

Joei Fiegler tied that mark in one quarter, as he went 4 for 4 in period two.

That's four completions, four scores. He finished with nine completions on 11 attempts for 140 yards. Only a pass interference call against Goodpasture early in the fourth quarter prevented the mark from being his alone. As in many Alcoa games this year, the left-hander basically shut down his passing attack at the half once the lead was firmly established.

Fiegler, whose current short-list of colleges includes Louisville, North Carolina State and Southern Miss, also punted for a 41-yard average. His first boomer was mishandled by Goodpasture, recovered by Logan Love (speaking of unsung heroes) and converted into the first Alcoa score of the night.

Throw in Kyrus Lanxter, with two touchdown receptions, and Brian Sommer, who picked off his 12th interception of the season to set up Lanxter's first score.

Alcoa head coach John Reid even offered up a dark-horse entry for MVP status, the offensive line.

"What about the O-line?" asked Reid when queried about the heroes.

"Everyone said they (Goodpasture) were too big and we couldn't move them out, but our line was just tremendous and without them Chris doesn't get those yards," said the third-year skipper.

Shiverdecker and Hicks, both juniors, send a strong signal to future Alcoa opponents that the graduation of Lindsey, Fiegler, Love, Martin White, Brandon Warren and others doesn't mean there's going to be a drop-off.

"They'll be back here next year," said Lindsey. "This is not just us, this is a dynasty."

"We expected the seniors to get those awards," said Shiverdecker, "but it's all just one team working together anyway."

A team, made up of unselfish and talented individuals. And sporting one more championship trophy now.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF GRANBY, COLORADO

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the town of Granby, Colorado.

Granby is a small town with a population of 1,525 located on the Fraser River with breathtaking views of the Continental Divide and Rocky Mountain National Park. Despite its size, Granby holds an important place within Colorado's history. It was first settled in 1904 and incorporated the next year. The town was established along the railroad line being built by Denver, Northwestern & Pacific and was a connection with the state route to Grand Lake.

The Granby site was chosen because of the dry ground and good view of the surrounding mountains. The town was named in appreciation of the services of Denver attorney, Granby Hillyer, who worked to layout the town site.

By the 1920's the town was a thriving commercial and service center for local farmers and ranchers. It was during this time that Granby became known for its lettuce which became a major crop for Granby. In fact, at the peak of the market, the Waldorf Astoria hotel in New York City proudly advertised Granby Head Lettuce on its menus.

Today Granby boasts some of the finest recreational opportunities that Colorado is so well-known for, including hiking, rafting, hunting, gold medal river water for fishing, horseback riding, and dog sledding. To name a few.

Granby is also known for its local charm and hospitality, as well as its preservation of its western rural roots—I have developed an affinity with this town and appreciate the friendliness and communal spirit of its residents. This community has welcomed me to their town in a manner that greatly reflects the essence of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in commemorating the historic 100th anniversary of Granby, Colorado. I believe that by honoring Granby and all the other historic small towns of this vast nation, we keep the great tradition of the American spirit alive for future generations. We must not forget about the many places that molded our country into what it is today. Centennial celebrations are few and far between, and Granby is deserving of our recognition.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 13, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 487, Supporting the goals and ideals of Korean American Day (rollcall 623); on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 1027, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of each of the Nation's past President and their spouses, respectively, to improve circulation of the \$1